REMARKS

Applicant amends claim 1 and adds new claims 3-12. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Support for the amendment can at least be found in Figures 1-4; p. 10, lines 9-24; and p. 11, line 22 to p. 12, line 4. Claims 1-12 are currently pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Snider (US 6,394,619)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Snider (US 6,394,619).

Claim 1

Newly amended claim 1 recites an illuminating mechanism of a rotary electric component comprising a rotary know, thin faceplate, a holder bonding and fixing an inner circumferential faceplate portion and an outer circumferential faceplate portion of a rear faceplate surface, and a light source, wherein a region of the holder bonded to a first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate protrudes forward farther than a region of the holder bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate, and an area in a second outer circumferential portion of the faceplate is pressed by a protruding portion formed on a rear surface of the front panel.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); MPEP 2131. However, Snider fails to disclose each and every claim limitation.

First, Snider fails to disclose a faceplate being pressed by a protruding portion formed on the rear surface of the front panel. According to the Office Action, Snider discloses a structure defined, in part, by a front panel 20, a thin faceplate 14 and a holder 26. The Office Action further contends that figure 4 shows a faceplate being pressed by a protruding portion 32 formed on the rear surface of the front panel. Figure 4 does not describe such a structure, however. In Fig. 4, faceplate 14 is not pressed by

protruding portion 32. Moreover, protruding portion 32 is not formed on the rear surface of the front panel 20. Instead, protruding portion 32 is formed on a surface of a structure construed by the Examiner as the holder 26. Thus, protruding portion 32 is not formed on the front panel 20 and is instead positioned below front panel 20.

Snider further fails to disclose a region of the holder bonded to an outer circumferential portion of the faceplate or a region of the holder protruding forward farther than holder portion bonded to the inner circumferential portion of the faceplate. In fact, holder 26 is not bonded to any portion of faceplate 14 (see Fig. 4). Instead holder 26 and faceplate 14 are separated by a light channel 44 through which light is directed so that it can be reflected off the surface of the actuator 38 to illuminate the switch member 12. Accordingly, Snider fails to disclose the faceplate 14 as being bonded to the holder 26. Morever, Snider fails to disclose any portion of holder 26 that protrudes farther forward than any other region of the holder. Instead, Fig. 4 depicts the holder 26 as a flat surface without any surface protrusion differences.

Claim 2

Dependent claim 2 recites the illuminating mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the protruding portion is continuously formed around the circumferential edge of the cutout of the front panel. Dependent claim 2 is not anticipated by Snider, in part, because Snider fails to disclose each and every limitation in claim 1 from which it depends. Further, the protruding portion 32 in Snider is not continuously formed *around* a cutout 21 in the front panel 20 (Fig. 4). Instead, the protruding portion 32 is depicted as being disposed at a fixed position on holder 26, which does not extend *around* any front panel cutout or around the faceplate.

Because Snider fails to disclose each and every claimed element recited in newly amended claims 1-2, Snider fails to anticipate claims 1-2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

New claims 3-7

New dependent claims 3-7 are directed to specific embodiments further defining structural relationships between the holder, faceplate and/or protruding portion. Claim

3, 5 and 7 define the holder as having two annular portions bonded to different portions of the faceplate. Claims 4-7 further define the nature of the contact areas between the holder (or portions thereof) and the faceplate.

Snider does not anticipate new claims 3-7, in part, because Snider fails to disclose each and every limitation in claim 1 from which new claims 3-7 depend. Snider further fails to anticipate new claims 3, 5 and 7, because Snider fails to disclose a holder having annular portions bonded to the faceplate. Additionally, Snider fails to anticipate new claims 4-7 because Snider does not disclose a circular area of contact between the protruding area and the second outer circumferential portion of the faceplate, nor does Snider disclose this area of contact as being closer to the knob or having a smaller diameter than the area of contact between the first outer circumferential portion of the faceplate and the holder.

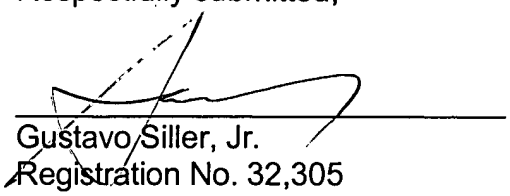
New claims 8-12

Snider fails to anticipate new claims 8-12 essentially for the reasons set forth above and because Snider does not disclose a first faceplate portion being vertically spaced relative to a second faceplate portion. Instead, Snider discloses uniformly flat faceplates. Futhermore, Snider does not disclose a protruding portion pressed against front side of a faceplate and a holder bonded to the rear side of the faceplate.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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